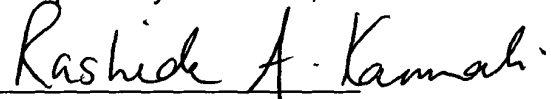


**REMARKS**

New claims 1 to 23 are under consideration. If for any reasons however, the Examiner should deem that this application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below to resolve any outstanding issues prior to issuing a further Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rashida A. Karmali". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

Rashida A. Karmali, Esq.

Reg. No. 43,705

Attorney for Applicants

99 Wall Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor

New York, New York 10005

Date: July 25, 2003